

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
PROPOSED RULEMAKING NOTICE

D.O. NUMBER 81-32

The Director of the Department of Transportation, under authority of Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1975, effective July 5, 1975 (22 DCR 961; D.C. Code, TITLE 1, Appendix), and D.C. Law 2-152, entitled "The School Transit Subsidy Act of 1978", and Mayor's Order No. 79-83, hereby proposes the following rules, which establishes the administration of the School Transit Subsidy Act of 1978 regarding student travel on Saturdays, Sundays and vacations or holidays. (Title 15 DCMR, Chapter 3.)

FINAL RULEMAKING ACTION WILL BE TAKEN IN NOT LESS THAN THIRTY (30) DAYS.

D.C. Law 2-152 "the School Transit Subsidy of 1978" provides a subsidy for the reduced fare transportation of school children in the District of Columbia on Metrobus and Metrorail. It requires that school children must reside in the District of Columbia and meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. be under 19 years of age;
2. be enrolled in a public, private or parochial school in the District of Columbia; and
3. have a need to use Metrorail and/or Metrobus for travel to and from school and to and from related educational activities in the District.

The existing student fare on Metrobus and Metrorail is currently prescribed at 10 cents, and the City pays to WMATA the difference between the student contribution and the regular adult fare. The aggregate of these individual payments represents the School Transit Subsidy budget.

Due to the sharp increase in adult Metro fares in July 1980 and again in January 1981, the FY 1981 School Transit budget of \$4,685,000 is projected to incur a substantial overrun. If the current program remains in effect for the rest of the fiscal year the estimated overrun will be \$1,870,000 causing a revised budget total of \$6,555,000.

The School Transit Subsidy Program has no overhead or personnel costs charged to the budget; thus, in order to reduce the overrun to more manageable proportions it will be necessary to modify the program itself. D.C. DOT has recommended an immediate increase in the student fare from 10 cents to 15 cents,

with a second increment to 20 cents at the start of the new academic year in September 1981. However, the legislative process will delay this action such that a 15 cent fare by September 1981 is the most optimistic forecast that can be expected. This will provide some relief for FY 1982 but will have a negligible impact on our current FY 1981 overrun. One area where cost savings may still be achieved is in the area of travel for "related educational activities." The rule proposed hereunder curtails unauthorized travel by students on Saturdays, Sundays and during vacations. It is estimated that selective prohibition of subsidized student travel during the 1981 summer recess alone could save approximately \$600,000.

Accordingly, the following regulations governing restrictions on subsidized student travel during certain periods of the year are hereby proposed, amending Title 15, D.C. Municipal Regulations Chapter 3.

300 RESTRICTIONS

300.1 Student travel shall be restricted in accordance with the provisions set out below as follows:

- (a) On Saturdays and Sundays throughout the calendar year.
- (b) During the following vacations periods:
 - (1) Christmas: December 25th through January 1st
 - (2) Summer: June 26th through August 31st, and
- (c) On other dates as shall be determined by the Director of Transportation.

300.2 Metrobus operators shall not accept the regular metallic student bus tokens during the periods cited in this section.

301 ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

301.1 Each student having a need to travel during any restricted period prescribed under these regulations shall purchase special student tickets at the price determined by the School Transit Subsidy Act of 1978.

301.2 To purchase such tickets, each student shall submit an application identifying respective courses and programs to which the student will travel during the restricted period; the content and purpose of the programs or courses; the location of the programs or courses; the duration and frequency of the course or program, and the student's name, address and age.

301 (continued)

- (a) Each application shall then be submitted to the principal of the student's school for verification and signature. Applications verified by rubber stamp signatures shall not be considered valid.
- (b) Applications that have been verified by the principals of District of Columbia Public Schools shall be forwarded by the respective schools to:

Director of Auxiliary Services
 Division of Student Services
 D.C. Public Schools
 415 12th Street, N.W. Room 913
 Route #1; Washington, D.C. 20004
 Phone 724-4201

who shall then forward all such applications to the Student Travel Program Coordinator, Office of Mass Transportation.

- (c) Applications that have been verified by the principals of private and parochial schools within the District of Columbia shall be forwarded by the respective schools to:

Student Travel Program Coordinator
 Office of Mass Transportation
 D.C. Department of Transportation
 415 12th Street, N.W.; Room 504
 Washington, D.C. 20004
 Phone 727-5646

301.3 All applications must be received by the Student Travel Program Coordinator, Office of Mass Transportation, D.C. Department of Transportation, no less than five (5) business days before the start of the program or course for which subsidized student travel has been requested.

301.4 All applications submitted to the Student Travel Program Coordinator shall be accompanied by a list of all students enrolled in each course or program being conducted during the restricted student travel periods set out under these regulations. Applications for subsidized bus travel, and for identification cards for subsidized rail travel, during restricted student travel periods shall not be acted upon until enrollment data is furnished.

301.5 Applications shall be reviewed and validated by the Office of Mass Transportation, D.C. Department of Transportation. Approved applications shall be returned to the school of origin together with ticket purchase blank forms that allow the student the number of subsidized bus tickets authorized

for travel to the student's program or course. The number of subsidized bus tickets authorized shall correspond to a single round trip for each day of the program or course to be taken during the restricted travel period.

302 PURCHASE PROVISIONS

302.1 Student tickets shall be purchased in multiples of ten from sales outlets of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) as shall be designated by the Director of Transportation.

Copies of the proposed rule may be obtained by writing to; Assistant Director, Office of Mass Transportation; D.C. Department of Transportation; 415 12th Street, N.W. Suite 504; Washington, D.C. 20004. Comments on the proposed rule may be sent to the address immediately above within thirty (30) days of the date of publication of this rule.

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